1700/061/003
1966
H

Farmstead Landscaping

in

Saskatchewan

LIBRARY, ALBERTA AGRICULTURE
7000 - 113 STREET, EDMONTON
ALBERTA, CANADA T6H 5T6

Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture — Plant Industry Branch

Published under the
Saskatchewan Co-operative Agricultural Extension Program

By authority of
Hon. D. T. McFarlane, Minister of Agriculture

CONTENTS

Page

Location of Buildings 2

The Farm Shelterbelt 3

Planning and Planting the Home Grounds 6

Shrubs, Trees and Flowers 8

Where to Buy Plants 12

Points To Consider in Improving Established Farmsteads 13

Cover Photo: An attractive farm home near Englefeld.

FARMSTEAD LANDSCAPING

A good farmstead is not hard to establish if it is developed according to a definite plan. The aim should be to arrange buildings, shelterbelt and home grounds into the most compact unit for utility, convenience, comfort, and beauty, and to allow space for future expansion. This applies when setting up a new farmstead and when remodelling an old one. In a desirable arrangement the buildings are placed to save time and effort while doing chores, allow free movement of machines and reduce the hazard of fire. With electricity reaching more and more farms the main buildings must be located where they can be economically linked to the power supply. A good shelterbelt, if properly placed, will provide protection for buildings, animals, plants and people. Attractive home grounds make farm life more enjoyable. A neat, well planned farmstead is the trademark of the successful farmer.

Since almost all farmsteads differ from one another each must be treated individually. A specialized farm requires a different building layout from that of a mixed farm. The direction the farmstead is facing has a bearing on the placement of buildings and on the design and location of the shelterbelt. The personal preferences of the farmer and his family must be considered. Thus, one plan will apply to only one or two farmsteads. The following suggestions and outlines are therefore offered only as a guide, but with slight changes they can be adapted to suit almost any situation.

An attractive farmstead near Rowatt.
Sask. Gov't Photo by Les Robinson.

LOCATION OF BUILDINGS

The advantage of locating the farmstead as handy as possible to good roads, school, power line, water supply and so on are obvious. Where a new farmstead is being established, the location of each building can be planned before it is built. However, on established farmsteads, the buildings are fairly permanently located. The expense of moving them can hardly be justified unless they are badly out of place. All that can be done is to rearrange small, moveable buildings and put any new buildings in a convenient place according to a definite plan.

A desirable building layout for either old or new farmsteads is one which has:

— good drainage away from all buildings, with drainage from the barns being away from the house and the water supply.

— the main farm buildings visible from the kitchen window.

— the house, barn, workshop, machine shed, garage and poultry house placed so that they can be economically linked to the farm power line.

— the machine shed located along the lane to the fields and preferably facing south or east.

— the garage and poultry house handy to the dwelling with windows in the poultry house facing south.

— all main buildings at least 100 feet from the inside row of shelterbelt trees.

— adequate but not excessive distances between the house and other buildings.

A convenient arrangement of farm buildings is shown in Plan 1.

Note: For more complete information on farm buildings see the publication entitled "Farmstead Planning For Greater Production and Better Living".

THE FARM SHELTERBELT

There are several good reasons for planting a shelterbelt:

— to give protection from wind.

— to help conserve moisture.

— to control the drifting of snow.

— to permit the growing of plants which will not succeed in the open.

— to add beauty to the farm surroundings.

The shelterbelt should give protection on all sides even though it need not be as wide on the south and east sides of the farmstead as it is on the north and west sides. Where an unrestricted view is desired, the front of the farmstead may be left open or at least partly so. (see item 6, Page 7)

The shelterbelt is usually made up of three or four rows of deciduous (leaf-shedding) trees and one or two rows of evergreen trees. Spacings normally used between trees in the row are 1 to 2 feet for caragana and 4 feet for other deciduous trees. Evergreen trees planted solely for the purpose of providing year round shelter, should be spaced at 4 to 6 feet apart in the row. If they are intended for specimen trees, it is better to space them 10 feet or more apart.

Spruce are hardy and provide year-round beauty and protection.
Courtesy Experimental Farm, Swift Current.

The spacing between rows is left to the discretion of the planter. Rows spaced 4 to 6 feet apart will provide dense shelter in the shortest possible time after planting and cultivation between rows can be discontinued within a few years. Rows spaced 10, 12 or more feet apart may be cultivated with field implements, but such cultivation is necessary over a much longer period than when the narrower spacing is used. Moreover, with wide spacings it takes longer to establish a dense shelter. *It is important to remember that no matter what spacing is used between rows or trees the margins of the shelterbelt must be kept permanently cultivated. These cultivated margins should be at least 16 feet wide.*

A desirable type of shelterbelt which is commonly used is made up as follows:

First row (outside)	— Caragana, 1 to 2 feet apart.
Second row	— Elm, boxelder, elm, poplar in that order —4 feet apart.
Third row	— Same as second. (An alternative arrangement for the second and third rows may be elm, ash, boxelder, in that order.)
Fourth row (inside)	— Ash and elm planted alternately at 4 feet apart.
Fifth row	— White Spruce, Colorado Spruce or Scotch Pine at 4, 6 or more feet apart—this row to be separated from the fourth row by a cultivated strip 12 to 20 feet wide. It is best not to plant evergreens until after the deciduous trees are well established.

In low areas or where moisture is plentiful, willows may be used in place of caragana.

When planning and planting a shelterbelt the following points should be kept in mind:

(1) Summerfallow the area to be planted for at least a year before the trees are planted. This not only conserves moisture but helps to destroy grass and weeds.

(2) Plant the trees in the early spring.

(3) During the first few years after the trees are planted, practise frequent shallow cultivation between the rows to keep grass and weeds from competing with the trees for moisture.

(4) *Maintain a permanently cultivated strip at least 16 feet wide around the margins of the shelterbelt.*

(5) Trees for farm shelterbelts are available from the P.F.R.A. Tree Nursery, Indian Head, Saskatchewan. Trees are supplied free but are shipped express charges collect. Planting instructions and information concerning kinds of trees best suited to your locality will be provided from the same source. Orders for trees should be placed not later than January 31 of the planting year.

(6) For best results, follow closely the planting instructions provided with the trees.

A simple farm shelterbelt is shown in Plan 2.

HOME BEAUTIFICATION

Home beautification does not need to be a complicated and expensive job. It can be undertaken by anyone having a desire to make their home surroundings more attractive. The added comfort and pleasure it provides, together with the increased value of the property, will more than repay the initial cost. A simple layout can be just as effective as an elaborate one and is much more practical for a farm home. The main consideration is that the project, when completed, will provide pleasure and satisfaction without requiring too much upkeep.

Native aspen poplar groves protect this home and garden in northern Saskatchewan.

Shrubs, trees, and flowers add shade and beauty to the outdoor living room.
Courtesy Heath's Studios, Melfort.

Planning and Planting the Home Grounds (See Plan 3)

Best results will be obtained if the following steps are followed:

1. Using squared paper, draw a plan of your home grounds. Indicate on the plan such features as the house, garage, lawn, walks and drives and other items which are fairly permanent fixtures.

2. Mark off on the plan the area which is to be landscaped. Probably the main road will border the front with the driveway along one side. Indicate these on the plan. If trees can be used at the rear of the area without entirely cutting off the view from the house to the barnyard, they will serve as a background for the house, a good means of separating the two areas, and provide summer shade. The fourth side may be bordered by a fairly tall hedge. Villosa or hybrid lilacs are ideally suited for this purpose and if left to grow to their full height are very colorful when in bloom. Plants may be set about 4 feet apart.

3. Draw in the shrubs around the sides of the house. These shrubs are known as the foundation planting. Use a group of two or three shrubs at the corners of the house, one or two on each side of the front door and one or two in front of wide wall spaces. Do not use a solid hedge of shrubs around the house. About a dozen may be sufficient. Their purpose is to blend

the house into its surroundings. As a general rule, use tall growing shrubs at the corners and in front of wide wall spaces, medium shrubs on each side of the door and low-growing ones where it is necessary to plant under windows. (Note: a list of shrubs which can be used is given in the next section.)

4. Separate the front lawn from the outdoor living room by a group of tall-growing shrubs. This group might be placed about directly opposite the front corner of the house or a little to the rear of the front corner. (See Plan 3.)
5. Place two groups of trees or two single trees on each side of the front lawn as shown in Plan 3. These provide a frame for the house when viewed from the main road.
6. A low hedge may be used to separate the front lawn from the road. Peking cotoneaster spaced eighteen inches apart is ideal for the purpose.
7. Place trees for shade and beauty in the outdoor living room. American Elm, White Spruce and Colorado Blue Spruce are well suited for this purpose. Plant them at least 20 feet apart.
8. A rock garden, bird bath, lily pool or barbecue pit may be located in the outdoor living room if desired.
9. Leave the front lawn as open as possible. Keep flower beds at the sides. Flowers may also be planted around the house between the shrub groups used in foundation planting.
10. Grass planted in the front lawn, outdoor living room and rear lawn should not be allowed to spread into tree, shrub or flower plantings.
11. Check the tree and shrub lists in the next section and decide which trees and shrubs to plant in the areas indicated on the plan.
12. For information on lawn making, obtain a copy of "The Seeding and Care of Lawns in Saskatchewan" from your local Agricultural Representative.

When the plan is completed, keep it for ready reference. Remember that changes are easy to make on paper, but mistakes made in actual planting may be hard to correct. With the completed plan you will know what work has to be done. If necessary, it can be spread over a period of years.

Don't be afraid to do your own landscaping. By planting trees, shrubs, flowers and lawn you can add beauty to your home surroundings and obtain a real sense of pride in having done it yourself. No matter what the final result may be, as long as you derive pleasure and satisfaction from it no one can say it has been wrongly done.

The neat and spacious outdoor living room on a farm near Canwood.

SHRUBS, TREES AND FLOWERS FOR THE HOME GROUNDS

Shrubs

Pygmy Caragana—globe shaped; leaves spiny; flowers yellow; hardy and drought resistant; may be used in a warm dry location; height 3 feet.

Shrubby Cinquefoil—globe shaped; profusion of bright yellow flowers throughout the summer; hardy and drought resistant; may be used in a warm, dry location; height 3 feet.

Russian Almond—low growing, spreads readily by shoots or suckers; attractive pink flowers in early spring; height 2½ feet.

Dwarf Burning Bush—dwarf, narrow leaved shrub; leaves persist throughout the winter; does well in shade; height 1-2 feet.

Peking Cotoneaster—upright, compact; leaves dark, glossy green, turning red in the fall; fruits black, remain on shrub through winter; will grow in sun or partial shade; height 4 feet.

Redosier Dogwood—upright, open shrub; flowers creamy white; berries white; red bark attractive in winter; does well in shade; height 4-6 feet.

Threelobe Spirea—a fine-textured, fan-shaped shrub about four feet in height; flowers white, in early June; will grow in sun or part shade.

Pikow Spirea—hardy upright shrub with arching branches; flowers white, early; will grow in sun or part shade; height 3 to 4 feet.

Oriental Spirea—upright shrub with creamy-white flowers in late May; attractive when in full bloom; will grow in sun or part shade; height 3 to 4 feet.

Sweetberry Honeysuckle—neat, compact; flowers pale yellow; fruits dark blue; height 4 feet.

Highbush Cranberry—tall shrub with white flowers and red berriers; suitable for planting in sun or shade; height 8 feet.

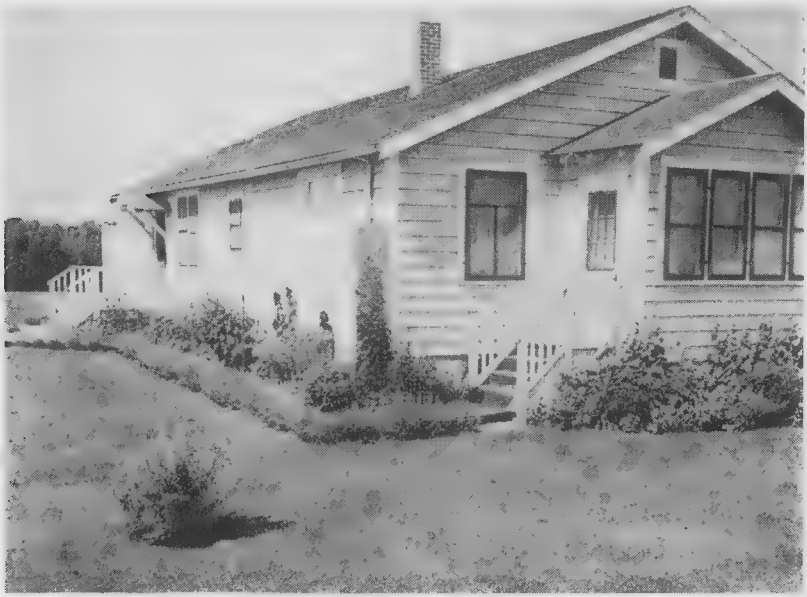
Red Elder—fast growing; flowers creamy white, fruit scarlet; suitable for planting in sun or part shade; height 8-10 feet; may kill back in winter in some areas.

Roses—several hardy varieties are worth growing:

Hansa—violet red; 4-5 feet
George Will—pink; 3 feet
Dr. Merkeley—pink; 2 feet
Betty Bland—pink; 6 feet
Harison's Yellow—yellow; 4 feet
Persian Yellow—yellow; 4 feet
Wasagaming—rose; 3 feet
Therese Bugnet—pink; 5 feet

Amur Lilac—fragrant, creamy-white flowers in July; height 15 feet.

Chinese Lilac (Villosa)—dense shrub with large, dull green leaves; flowers rosy lilac; height 10-12 feet.



Shrubs and flowers help to blend the house into its surroundings.

Common Lilac—fragrant white and lilac flowers; suckers freely, but is adapted to a wide range of conditions; height 8 feet.

French Hybrid Lilacs—many named varieties; wide range of colors; some double flowered forms; height 10-12 feet.

Preston Hybrid Lilacs—attractive flower spikes; very popular; height 10-12 feet; excellent varieties include:

Coral—pink	Nocturne—lilac blue
Donald Wyman—rose	Hiawatha—rose
Excel—mauve pink	Royalty—purple

Tartarian Honeysuckle—upright, open shrub; very hardy; flowers fragrant, white or pink, in June; berries reddish-orange; height 8-10 feet. Several named red varieties are available.

Common Caragana—upright, hardy, drought resistant shrub; flowers yellow, in June; height 15 feet.

Russian Sandthorn—leaves silver-grey; fruits bright orange, remain on shrub into winter; spreads freely by shoots or suckers; will tolerate dry conditions; both male and female plants required to obtain fruit; height 8 feet.

Creeping Juniper—low, spreading evergreen; vigorous and attractive; height 1-1½ feet.

Savin Juniper—upright, fan shaped evergreen; height 3 feet.

Rocky Mountain Juniper—upright, pyramidal evergreen; grows slowly; height 10-12 feet.

Mugho Pine—compact, globe shaped evergreen; may sunscald in exposed locations; height 4-6 feet.

Eastern White Cedar—slow growing evergreen which requires a good supply of moisture; varieties range in form from globe to columnar; Ware's variety most popular; all varieties may be subject to sunscald.

Shrubs for Hedges

Low Growing	*Tall Growing*
Pygmy Caragana	Chinese Lilac (Villosa)
Peking Cotoneaster	Chocolate Hawthorn
Sweetberry Honeysuckle	Common Caragana
Cherry Prinsepia	Siberian Elm
Betty Bland Rose	White Spruce

Trees

Cut-leaved Weeping Birch—graceful tree with pendulous branches and white bark; excellent ornamental or specimen tree; requires a moist soil.

American Mountainash—a large shrub or small tree reaching 20 feet in height; produces white flowers and red berries; attractive fall coloring; may sunscald in exposed locations; best grown in bush form.

Crabapple—small tree 15-20 feet in height. Some ornamental varieties have attractive colored flowers, leaves and fruit. Only hardy varieties should be used.

American Elm—large tree with spreading branches. Excellent for providing shade.

Green Ash—long-lived tree; slow growing; leaves appear late and fall with first frost; suitable for providing shade.

Ohio Buckeye (Horsechestnut)—medium sized tree; large five-parted leaves turn red in autumn; greenish-yellow flowers in June.

Paper Birch—white bark with brown twigs; a graceful tree suitable for both shade and ornamental purposes; requires a moist soil.

Siberian Elm—a fast-growing, fine-leaved, shade or ornamental tree; seldom bothered by insects or diseases. Use only hardy strains.

White Spruce—a hardy, attractive evergreen, relatively fast growing when established.

This sheltered vegetable garden yielded well even during one of the driest years on record.

Courtesy Experimental Farm, Swift Current.

A good coat of paint prolongs the life and improves the appearance of farm buildings.

Sask. Gov't Photo by Gerry Savage.

Colorado Spruce—blue forms are highly regarded as ornamental trees, but green forms also are very attractive. Believed by many to be superior to white spruce.

Scotch Pine—a fairly dense tree, fast growing when established; does best on light soils.

Dependable Perennial Flowers

Achillea	Lychnis
Bleeding Heart	Lythrum
Columbine	Monkshood
Daylily	Oriental Poppy
Delphinium	Peony
German Iris	Siberian Iris
Iceland Poppy	Trollius
Lily	Tulip

WHERE TO BUY PLANTS

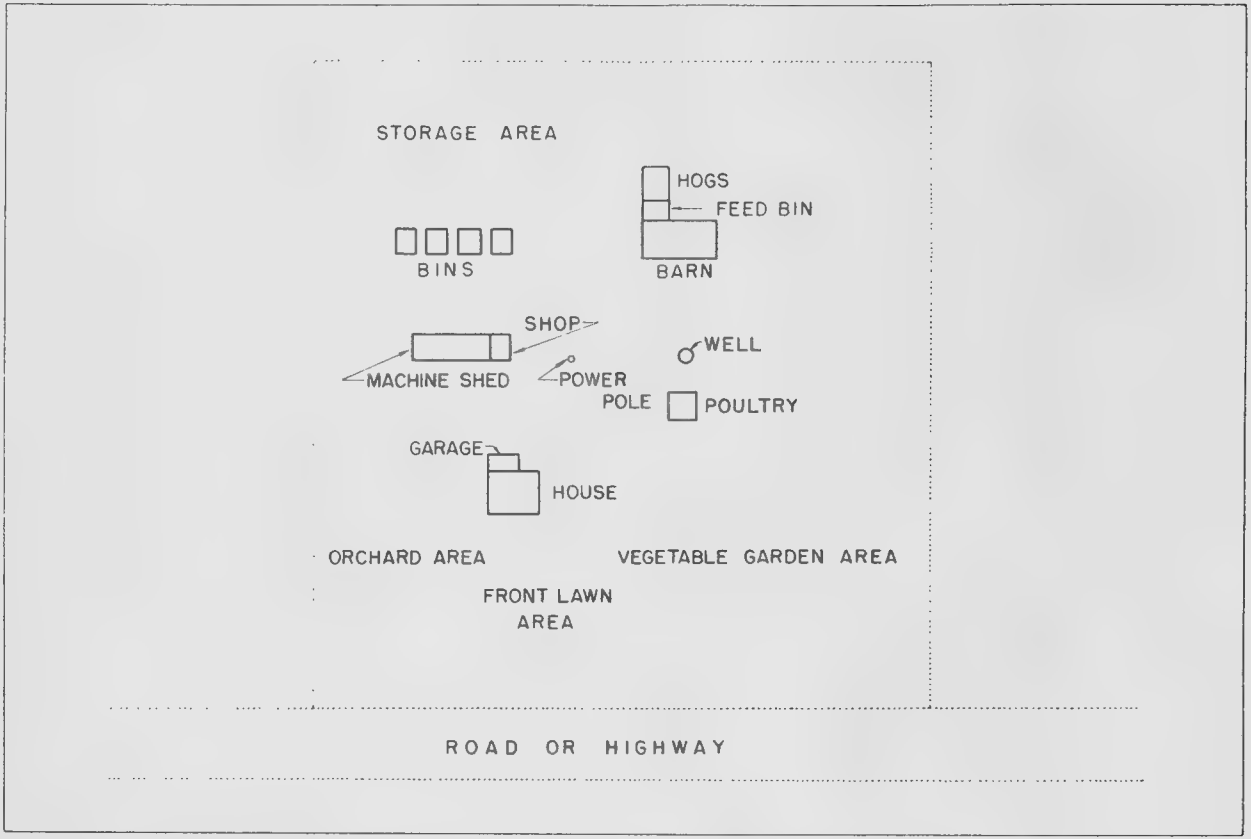
It is best to buy trees, shrubs and perennial flowers from one of the many reliable nurseries located in Western Canada. Plants which they offer for sale are usually dependable and are adapted to our climate. Bargain offers made by nurseries located outside the prairie region should be disregarded, since in most cases the plants offered are

not suited to our conditions. An up-to-date list of nurseries recommended in Saskatchewan can be obtained from your Agricultural Representative or Experimental Farm.

POINTS TO CONSIDER IN IMPROVING ESTABLISHED FARMSTEADS

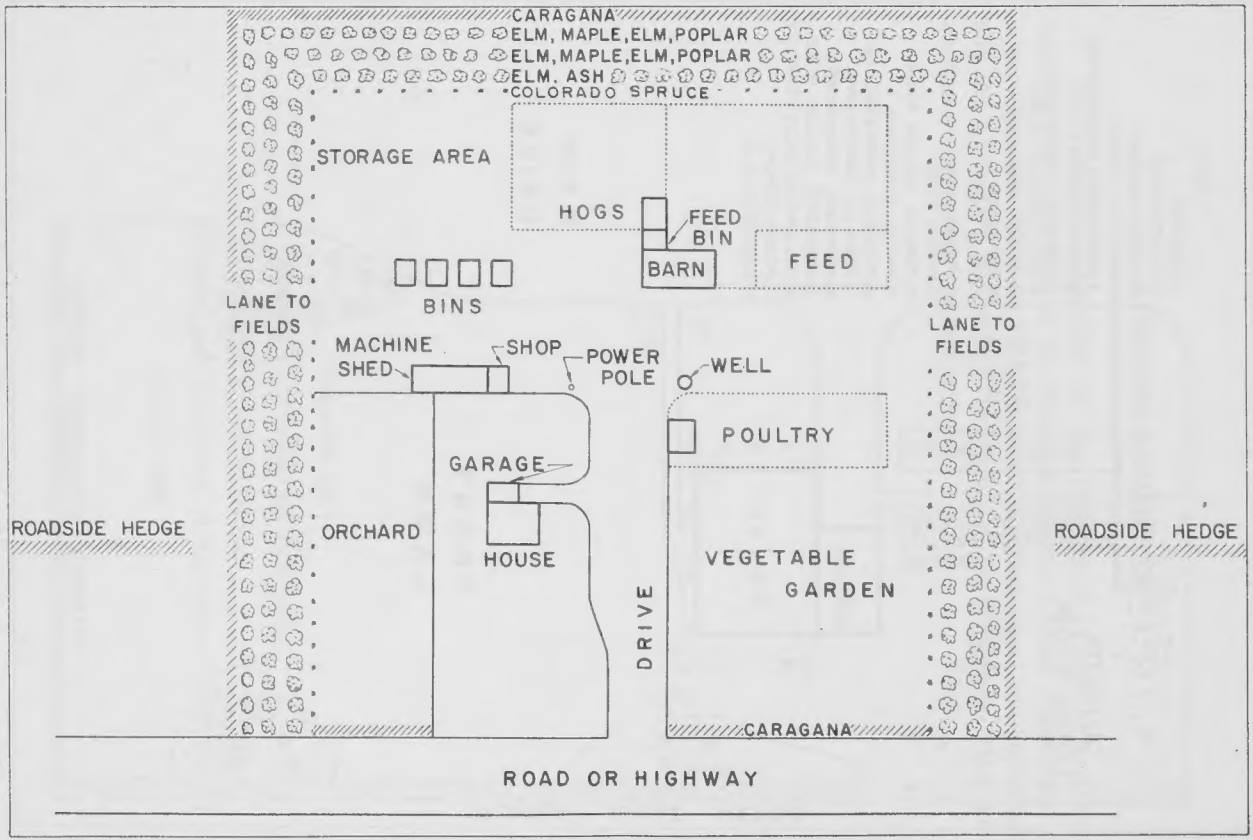
1. Do the farm buildings need a good coat of paint?
2. Has a good shelterbelt been established?
3. Could the home grounds be made more attractive?
4. Is it practical and feasible to rearrange present buildings for greater convenience?
5. Are unused and out-of-date machines stored neatly at the rear of the farmstead?
6. Is the main entrance to the farm neat and tidy? (Don't forget that first impressions are lasting ones.)
7. Has the farmstead an attractive sign at the main entrance showing the name of the farm and its owner? Note: Farm names may be officially recorded with the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture at Regina under The Names of Homes Act.

PLAN I — THE FARM BUILDINGS



First step in successful farmstead planning is to locate buildings for maximum comfort and convenience. Well and power pole should be handy to main buildings and adequate space provided for garden and orchard.

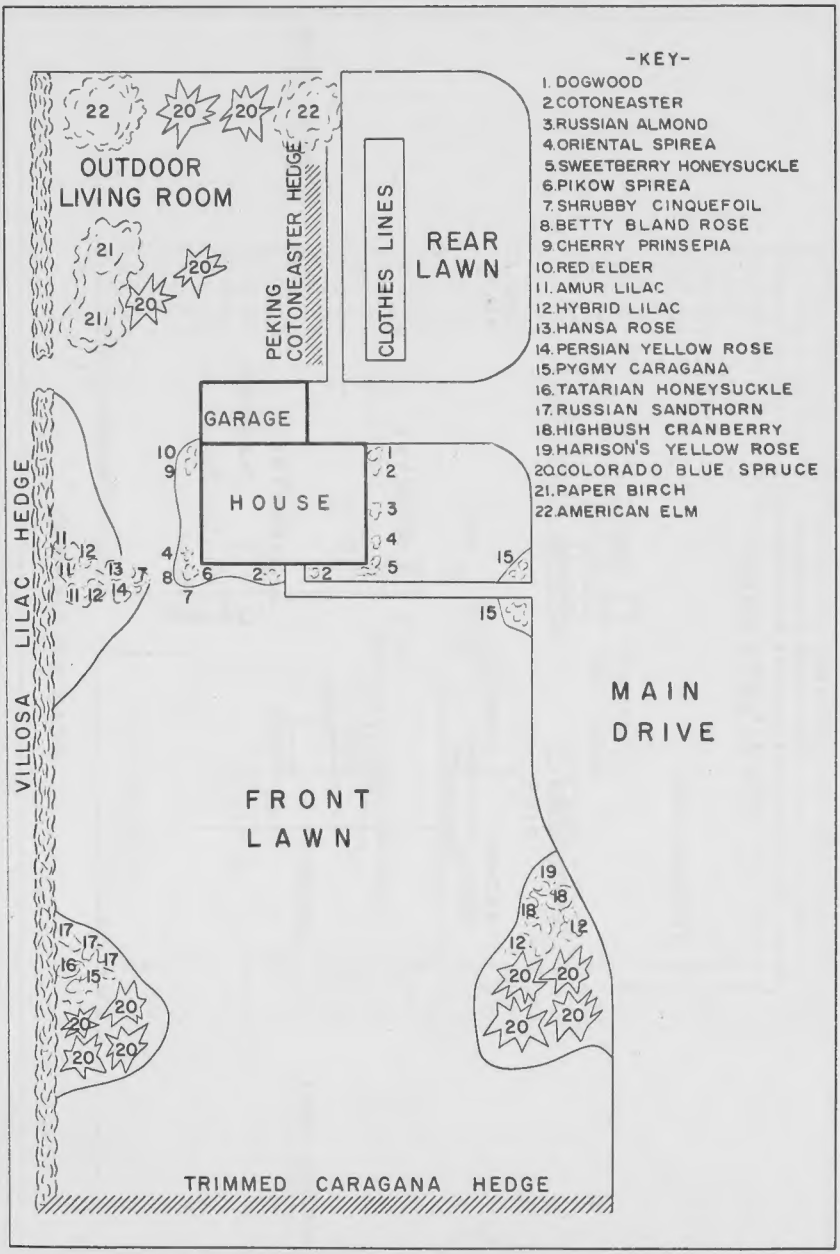
PLAN II — THE SHELTERBELT



A good shelterbelt provides protection from wind and prevents snow from piling up around farm buildings. If farmstead faces north or west the main belt of trees should be extended across the front. Building layout is the same as in Plan I.

PLAN III

THE HOME GROUNDS (taken from Plan 2 and enlarged)



This section includes the house and garage and the area immediately surrounding them. Note the open front lawn, the outdoor living room and plantings of trees and shrubs for comfort and beauty.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many helpful suggestions for the preparation of this bulletin were received from personnel of the Research Branch, Canada Department of Agriculture, the P.F.R.A. Tree Nurseries at Indian Head and Sutherland, and the College of Agriculture, University of Saskatchewan. Their kind assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

Prepared by

S. Sheard, Horticultural Specialist

Plant Industry Branch

Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture

Revised 1966